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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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Hepatitis B drug approved in Canada

Heptovir based on University of Alberta research

By Lee Elliott

At a news conference Nov. 30, Edmonton businessman Kit Li described the end stages of his liver disease caused by the hepatitis B virus. "I was like a 10-month pregnant woman all the time," he said. "My liver made me very short tempered. It affected my brain also." But among the worst symptoms was the internal hemorrhaging that meant blood unexpectedly pouring from his mouth.

Before he slipped into a coma, he recalls collapsing on the stairs of his home and his wife saying, "Let's pray to God."

The answer to that prayer came more than three months later. Dr. Lorne Tyrrell, dean of medicine and dentistry, asked the manufacturers of Heptovir, a drug developed from his research, to let Li's doctor try it on him.

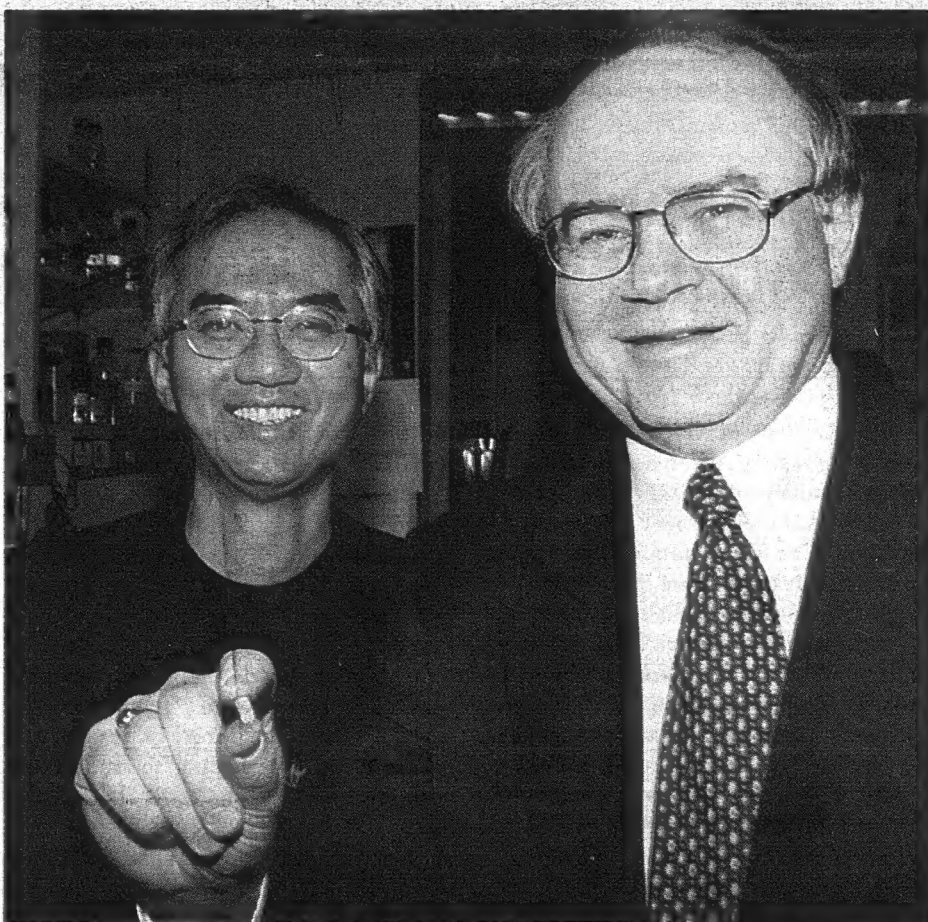
That was in May of 1994. The drug held the virus at bay, allowing doctors to carry out a liver transplant without risk of the virus infecting the new liver.

And at that news conference announcing the drug was approved for use on the estimated 250,000 people infected with hepatitis B across Canada, a healthy Li said simply, "It definitely saved my life."

About 300 million people are infected worldwide, says Tyrrell, and as approval for the drug moves around the world, it could save roughly 4,500 lives each day.

"This work really began here at the University of Alberta," he said. "Today, we're announcing what is really the culmination of 12 years work."

That work started with a conversation in the Faculty Club between Tyrrell and Dr. Morris Robins, then a U of A chemistry professor who continues to collaborate



Dr. Lorne Tyrrell holds a capsule of Heptovir, the drug that helped hepatitis B victim Kit Li

in the research from Brigham Young University.

Tyrrell's lab adapted a cell-culture system to test compounds for anti-viral activity and began testing on ducks—supplied by Tyrrell's farm family—and woodchucks. "It was very basic work in the beginning and basic work that re-

sulted in a very important clinical application," said Tyrrell.

After the animal tests, Tyrrell led the way to a different kind of new ground for the U of A by bringing industry into research. Glaxo Canada, now Glaxo Wellcome, supported the development of the Glaxo Heritage Research Institute and

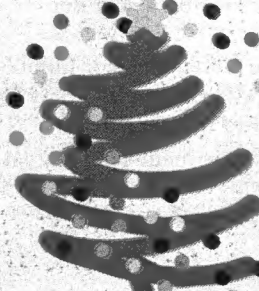
has expended \$11 million over the last 10 years to support its research. That money and support from the Medical Research Council of Canada, the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and the University of Alberta Hospitals Foundation saw the project through clinical trials.

The resulting drug, Heptovir, was synthesized by Dr. Bernard Billieu of BioChem Pharma, an international biopharmaceutical company. BioChem will receive a royalty based on sales, while Glaxo Wellcome has the right to develop, manufacture and sell Heptovir worldwide. An equally owned joint venture between the two companies will commercialize Heptovir in Canada.

Heptovir is taken orally and will cost roughly \$4.40 a day, "which compares with some of our modern therapies for hypertension," said Tyrrell. But while the pill will revolutionize treatment, "the best treatment in the world is prevention," he says. An effective vaccine is available and administered to Alberta children in Grade 5.

But while researchers are one step ahead of the virus, Tyrrell says Dr. Karl Fischer on the U of A research team discovered early on that over a period of time the virus can mutate. "We don't know if we can predict who might develop resistance," says Tyrrell. "It is a problem...we and other labs are working on other compounds." The ultimate weapon will probably be a "cocktail" of drugs like those currently being used to treat AIDS.

While that work is going on, Tyrrell's team is moving down the alphabet and conducting parallel research on compounds to fight hepatitis C. ■



Holiday Wishes...

from the staff of Folio!

Have a safe and merry holiday season.

Jamie Weiss-Schaefer
Randy Pavlish
Roger Armstrong
Lee Elliott
Katherine
Gaff

Judy Goldsand
Cora Doucette
Lorraine Cusack
Bob

Sandra Briggs
Tony Mayes

University fund-raising campaign hits target – early

By Geoff McMaster

The skeptics said it couldn't be done, but the U of A's first campus-wide fund-raising team proved them wrong as the campaign reached its \$144.65 target this month, 20 months ahead of schedule. The total is now \$147 million.

But before celebrating too loudly, both President Rod Fraser and Dr. Terry Flannigan, acting associate vice-president, external affairs, say there's still much work to do before August, 2000.

"We will continue to go on attempting to raise money at the same pace, if not increased pace, to fund the priorities that haven't thus far been funded," says Fraser. In a donor-driven campaign, he explains, there are always gifts earmarked for items not on the A-list, but which are nonetheless crucial to the success of the institution. The campaign goal represents only a small portion of the university's overall needs.

One recent contribution that helped push the campaign beyond its goal was a \$300,000 "shot in the arm" for asthma research from AstraPharma, one of Canada's

major pharmaceutical companies. The donation will be used to conduct research into the causes and possible treatments of asthma, and is part of a larger commitment to support the Astra Chair in asthma research. It follows a \$100,000 gift from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research to determine the causes of asthma in Alberta school children, and about \$200,000 from the American National Institute of Health for research on gene therapy in airway passages.

Sun Microsystems Canada also helped the campaign surpass its goal with \$130,000 in Web service and hardware to provide on-line access to libraries across Alberta and to other object-base collection resources on the Internet. The project aims to "foster increased interest in cultural and natural history."

Some of the resources at the Sun SITE

location include books, works of art, zoological specimens, spatial data, an Ethiopian volute (scroll) and a Guatemalan huipile. A virtual museum will give both the academic community and the general public unprecedented access to many of the University of Alberta's collections – a total of 17 million artifacts, specimens and works of art. The site is found at: www.sunsite.ualberta.ca

Many such donations have made the university campaign "the fourth largest that's ever been held in Canada," says Flannigan. "If it continues to go with this momentum, it's conceivable we could be the third largest (following the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia, but ahead of McGill)."

Besides continuing to raise money for scholarships and bursaries, Flannigan says the expansion of computing science is one

area where private sector dollars are needed "more than ever," because of a shortfall in government funding. The Timms Centre for the Arts has not yet attracted the donations expected, and there are still several research chairs requiring support, including the Lemieux Chair in carbohydrate chemistry and chairs in petroleum and economic geology.

Looking back at the highlights of the campaign, Flannigan cites the launch, kicked off in downtown Edmonton with \$70 million. "We did it properly, and showcased the major donors," says Flannigan. He is also proud of "the fact we've been banging away at putting scholarships and bursaries in place. That's the largest part of our campaign goal, and the one we've been addressing."

The \$12.9 million gift from Telus, and a number of anonymous "transforming" donations, including \$5 million for the Construction Research Institute, were some of the milestone contributions.

Flannigan says the campaign's success has been partly due to the hard work of the three co-chairs: the Rt. Honourable Don Mazankowski, Catherine Roozen (vice-president, investments, Cathton Holdings Ltd.), and Brian MacNeill (president and CEO, IPL Energy Inc.).

He also links the success to changing perceptions of the university in the private sector. "I think we're breaking down the ivory tower syndrome," he says. "People realize students are going to pay a larger percentage of the cost of education, and the government is going to pay their share but no more. So the third leg on the table is the private sector, and they're starting to pick up the ball." ■

UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA
CAMPAIGN

To: Deans, Directors, Chairs, and all staff at the University of Alberta
RE: Holiday Closure — Christmas Eve at noon

On behalf of University Administration, I am writing to thank you for all of the work you do for the University of Alberta. As a small token of our appreciation, and in recognition of all of your efforts over the last year, we will be closing the University at 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve.

While we recognize that this is only a small measure, we hope that it will give you just that extra little bit of time to prepare for the holidays.

With best wishes for a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season!!

Doug O'ram
Vice-President (Academic) and Provost



Dr. Dean Befus, director of the Alberta Asthma Centre, Dr. Paul Armstrong, chair of the department of medicine, Gerry McDole, president of AstraPharma and Dr. Lorne Tyrell with a \$300,000 cheque for asthma research.

Tina Chang

folio

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
400 ATHABASCA HALL
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2E8

Tony Myers: Director, Office of Public Affairs

LEE ELLIOTT: Managing Editor
LUCIANNA CICCOCIOPO: Assistant Editor
GEOFF MCMASTER: Writer

CONTRIBUTORS:

Roger Armstrong, Phoebe Dey, Desmond Rochfort, Joanne Vincenten

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

Ray Au, Susan Hunter, Marion McFall, Lara Minja, Dennis Weber

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Inquiries, comments and letters should be directed to Lee Elliott, managing editor, 492-0441 lee.elliott@ualberta.ca

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public.affairs@ualberta.ca

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...it makes sense

Killam award-winner strives to make the bottom line environmentally friendly

By Phoebe Dey

At the University of Alberta, he is known as an innovative researcher, a dedicated professor and a prolific author. But when Dr. Wiktor Adamowicz isn't in the classroom, he can be found running household errands, observing a dance class or dribbling away on the basketball court.

A recent Killam Annual Professorship winner, Adamowicz studies ways to change economic analysis to incorporate environmental factors. More specifically, he examines the benefits of environmental improvements and the costs of environmental degradation in monetary terms.

"Watching changes take place is exciting," said Adamowicz, who has been at the university as a professor of rural economics since 1983. "I'm very much interested in the social science and human side of economics and like the interaction between biology and the social systems. But there's a big gap right now because the folks in social science stay in their tents and the folks in biology stay in their tents."

Adamowicz stayed close to his roots. He earned both his bachelor and master of science from the U of A and then moved on to the University of Minnesota, where he received his PhD from the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Since then he has been honing his talents in the classroom and on paper and has repeatedly been rewarded for his efforts. He served on the Alberta Forest Management Science Council, was deputy program leader of the Sustainable Forest Management Network

of Centres of Excellence and won the national Association of Colleges and Teachers in Agriculture Meritorious Teaching Award in 1996.

Naming a favorite part of the job is difficult for Adamowicz. He finds teaching, researching and publishing equally gratifying.

"It's pretty hard to separate the three components because they go in cycles," he said. "That's the beauty of this job. Research leads to teaching, teaching leads to publishing, so it's hard to pick out one aspect over another."

In the 15 years since Adamowicz has been instructing, he's noticed a change in the student profile.

"When I first started, I taught mostly agricultural students from rural backgrounds," he said. "And most of them were male. Today, probably two or three people out of 80 are from a rural or farm background and most of them are female. So it's a pretty different group of students."

When Adamowicz isn't on campus, he's sharpening his athletic wits.

"I attempt to play basketball but I'm not very good," said Adamowicz, who plays in a city league. "We have uniforms, referees and all that fun stuff. And I attended a father-daughter basketball camp years ago."

Before those daughters—Elizabeth, 7 and Kathryn, 5—came along, Adamowicz spent much of his free time playing hand-



Dr. Wiktor Adamowicz

ball, cross-country skiing or curling. Now, on most Saturday mornings, he can be found either watching his girls in a ballet class or waiting for the final pirouette while munching on a donut and sipping coffee at the Tim Horton's next door to the studio.

As for future plans, the ever-humble Adamowicz hopes to stay at the university for "as long as they'll have me."

"I find this department such a great place to be in terms of people, collaboration and social networking." ■

Tina Chang

People or profits?

Human rights and transnational companies: Not an "either/or" dilemma

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

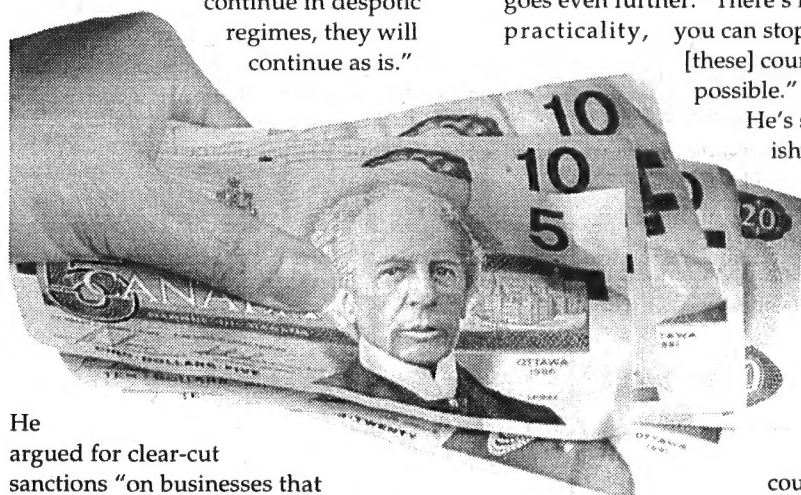
The next time you dash into your warm car, head over to a shopping mall to buy gifts and toys, stop for a minute and think: How many people died so you could have oil and fuel for your car, or worked all day in a sweat shop to make soccer balls, running shoes, T-shirts or handbags?

Consumers have a moral obligation to think about this, said Dr. Owens Wiwa, a research scientist at the University of Toronto. His brother was Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian human-rights activist executed in 1995 by the country's military dictatorship for speaking out against the impact of Shell Oil on the environment, and the Ogoni tribe way of life.

"The question to ask is: How do these products get here?" Wiwa was speaking as part of a panel on human rights and the role of transnational corporations during last month's international human rights conference, sponsored by the Canadian Human Rights Foundation and the University of Alberta.

There's a double standard in their business ethics, said Wiwa: one for the West and one for developing countries. "Until we make it unprofitable for businesses to

continue in despotic regimes, they will continue as is."



He argued for clear-cut sanctions "on businesses that continue to support or act as pillars of despotic regimes." Hitting them where it hurts — the bottom line — will force transnationals to respect human rights in developing countries, said Wiwa.

"We are not against companies wanting to create wealth," said Wiwa, who pointed out Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights protects property, "but we are against the fact that we could die if they want to create wealth for themselves."

Others suggested more radical measures: Why not just get rid of these large multinationals? Like totalitarian regimes, these corporations should not be accepted in society, asked a man during question period.

That would be "a serious mistake," responded another audience member, Ed Broadbent. A former president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, now a professor at Simon Fraser University, Broadbent said as a new century approaches, the focus on accountability shifts from government and voluntary sectors to the private and corporate. "One thing we ought to have learned this century, those of us particularly on the left, is there's a problem of concentration of power, namely state power. We do not want to replace, in my view, corporate power with cumbersome, inefficient and frequently rights-denying state power. The immense challenge...is to make that corporate sector accountable."



Quig Tingley, a partner in the Body Shop Canada, and Dr. Owens Wiwa, brother of Nigerian human-rights activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, who was executed by the military dictatorship in 1995.

It's an argument the U of A's Dr. Wen Ran Jiang believes will work. Ensuring multinationals follow a human rights code with a combination of supervision, regulation and volunteerism is key, says Jiang. The assistant professor of political science goes even further. "There's no way, in practicality, you can stop trading with [these] countries. It's impossible."

He's seen impoverished teen-aged girls working in factories in central, rural China, a region not yet swept up in the economic reforms of the country. Often, the export market is their lifeline, says

Jiang. The impact of ceasing to trade with despotic regimes would be devastating on the Canadian economy as well as in developing countries, and would hurt the human rights cause overall. "This fairy-tale scenario of continuing trade will improve human rights is wrong. But it's also wrong for radical non-governmental agencies to say cut off trade altogether."

One doesn't have to look far for human-rights violations, said panelist Warren Allmand, president of the Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development. Global ties such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) do not contain "social charters," or minimum standards for labor and social programs. As a result, the countries involved feel pressures to

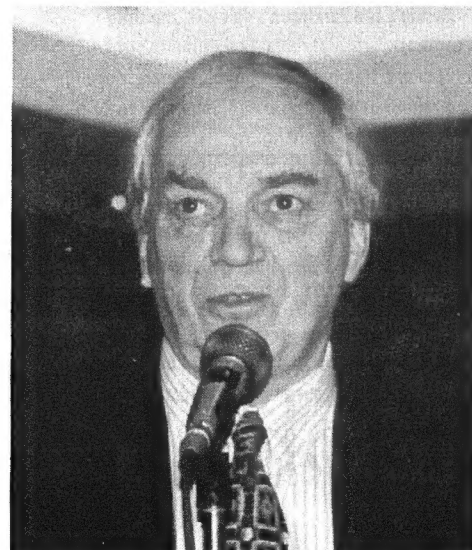
lower taxes, cut social programs and dilute labor and environmental standards in order to attract and accommodate international business investment.

"These policies, in my view, resulted in obscene situations where people are sleeping on frozen streets, eating out of garbage cans and dying from treatable diseases," said Allmand. All this flies in the face of the declaration's Articles 22-26, which spell out rights to food, housing, education, pensions and protection against unemployment. These are "rights, not options," said Allmand. "In the context of global free trade, one could say that transnational corporations are choosing profits over people and human rights," said Warren Allmand.

But transnational profits and human rights protection are not necessarily mutually exclusive. That's what Quig Tingley, a partner of the Body Shop Canada, argued, as the corporate representative. "We hear much about free trade but little about fair trade," said Tingley. "Human rights are not fads; they're not marketing gimmicks; they're not costly and they're not impossible."

Tingley said protecting human rights and pursuing profits is not an either/or dilemma, but rather an "and." Held up as an example of a company cognizant of past mistakes and striving to make an impact in the area of human rights, the Body Shop has established a system to monitor suppliers for human and animal rights violations, without affecting its profits, said Tingley. If the Body Shop can do it, why can't other corporations? It will not happen overnight, but the threat of switching to another supplier can pressure one to clean up its act, suggested Tingley.

Sociologist Dr. Gordon Laxer, director of the Parkland Institute, a political economy research centre in the U of A's Faculty of Arts, says it's a matter of providing "economic citizenship — meaning people as a community have democratic control over their economy." He wants to see Mexicans controlling the Mexican economy and Indonesians doing the same in their country. Call it economic



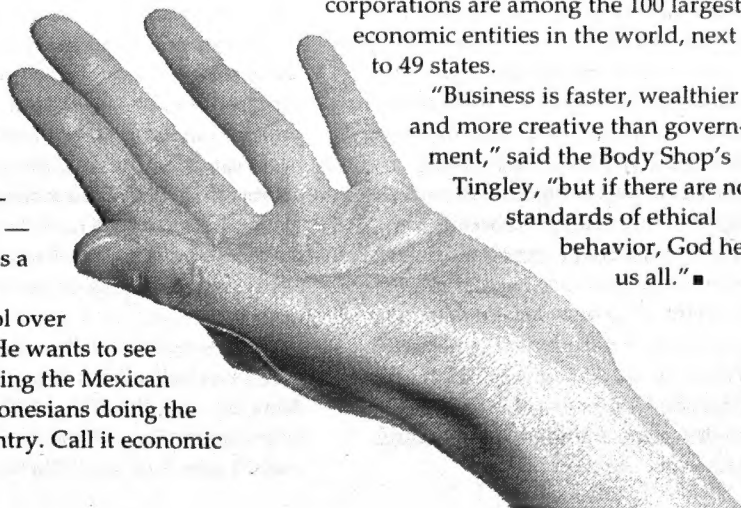
Get rid of transnationals? That would be "a serious mistake," says Ed Broadbent.

nationalism or local control, said Laxer, but it would probably offer a greater possibility for democratic and human rights than having economies controlled by huge transnationals.

"We have to strengthen democratic movements and we have to challenge the globalization model of transnationals." Agreements like NAFTA and MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment) are attempts to discipline governments, said Laxer. "When you restrict government, you're restricting the power of people to determine what happens in their own countries." Added Laxer: "I think we need international agreements that stem what transnationals can do."

The solution isn't clear. What is clear, however, is the scope of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as written in the preamble. It applies to "every individual and every organ of society" — a fitting choice of words considering 51 corporations are among the 100 largest economic entities in the world, next to 49 states.

"Business is faster, wealthier and more creative than government," said the Body Shop's Tingley, "but if there are no standards of ethical behavior, God help us all." ■



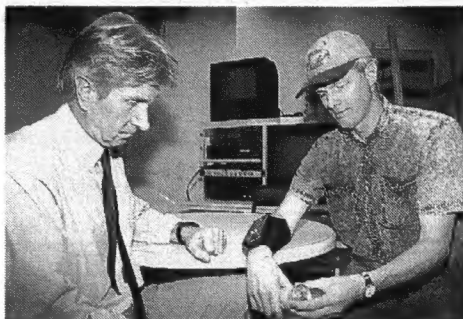
Hand movement for stroke victims now possible

Impact cuff jolts muscles to repond

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Imagine going through life with one hand tied behind your back, trying to cook dinner, zip up a jacket, open a tin can or put the cap back on the toothpaste tube. It may not sound like a big deal, but it is for about three million people in North America (300,000 in Canada and 10,000 in Edmonton) who suffer from hemiplegia, or one-sided paralysis, due to strokes and other brain attacks.

Richard Hanes, 47, knows what it's like. He suffered a stroke 12 years ago while driving to Eastern Canada on vacation. While stopped at a gas station in Brandon, Man., Hanes fell to the passenger seat, unconscious. He slipped into a coma and woke 10 days later in a Winnipeg hospital with no memory, no speech, no movement on the right side of his body. About seven years of therapy has helped him to walk and talk again. But he still could not use his right hand. Until now.

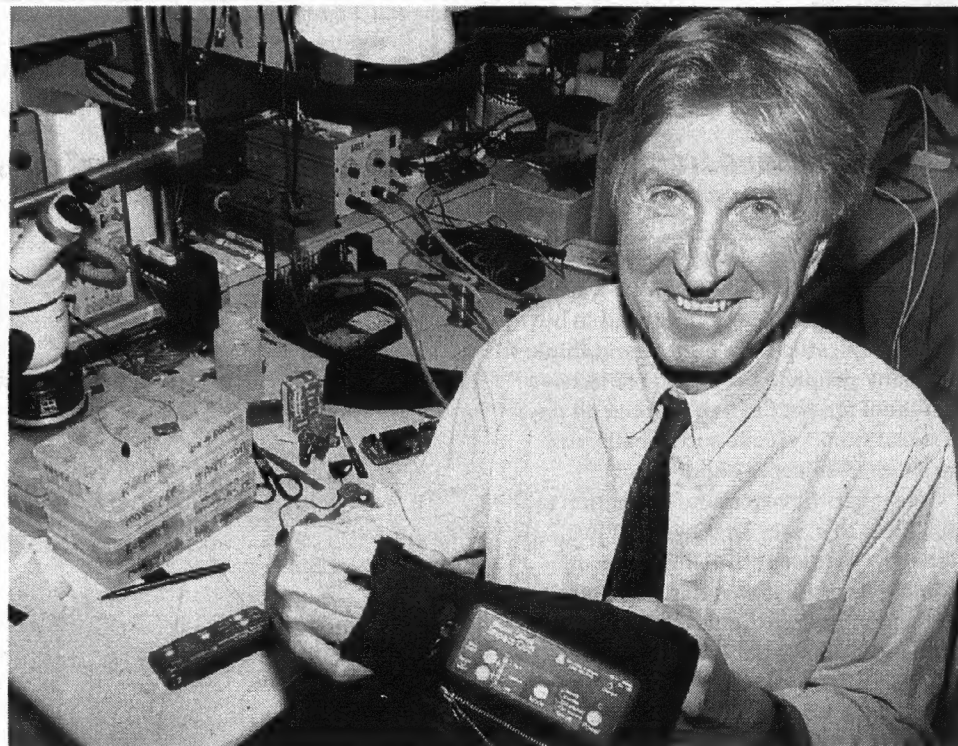


Dr. Arthur Prochazka and Richard Hanes test the impact cuff.

Thanks to a device called the impact cuff, a form-fitting garment and muscle stimulator worn on the forearm, Hanes can open and close his usually tightly clenched right hand. "It's amazing," says Hanes. "It means a lot."

The impact cuff, developed by Dr. Arthur Prochazka, a professor in the physiology department of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, has two internal electrodes carrying an electrical current from one to the other and to a built-in controller/stimulator box. The box generates 30 pulses per second, each pulse about 30 volts, which the wearer feels as a vibration. "The microprocessor in the box generates a pulse train to do whatever it's told to do," says Prochazka. In this case, it stimulates the nerves to direct the appropriate muscles to either open or close the hand.

The cuff contains an accelerator, a mechanism to detect jarring, adds Prochazka. It can be activated by tapping the box, or the forearm, with the other functioning hand. The accelerator used in the prototype Hanes wears can detect impact on three axes: x,y,z, says electronics technician, Al Denington. Denington and electrical engineer Debby Gillard are working to optimize the design, make the impact cuff smaller with a longer battery life and contained in a more comfortable garment. Unique in the world, it is the



Dr. Arthur Prochazka and the unique, self-containing impact cuff.

only self-containing device to aid hand movements for victims of stroke, says Prochazka.

More important, the impact cuff has an exercise mode. It can stimulate the muscles every five seconds automatically to open and close the hand. Typically, users of the cuff do the exercise for 20 minutes each day. "Nearly all of them report their hand is much looser," says Prochazka. This helps prevent the hand from contorting and damaging joints, which sometimes means surgery. In fact, one fifteen-year-old user of the impact cuff says surgery is no longer necessary to correct her contracted hand and she can continue to push wheelchairs in the nursing home where she works, says Prochazka.

The impact cuff does not cure the stiffness or paralysis, nor will it give the affected hand greater control after extended

use. "This is just a tool," he says. "It needs to be used in physiotherapy clinics as part of whole-arm exercises. If [stroke victims] are taught to reach out and their hand is closed, there isn't much point. But if they are taught to reach out and their hand is open, they have more motivation."

The impact cuff will be marketed through Neuromotion Inc., a University of Alberta spin-off company based in Edmonton and Minneapolis, and should be on the market in about a year.

Neuromotion is also developing the tetron glove, a similar device for quadriplegics. It uses their ability to flick their wrists to stimulate hand muscles and assist movements. One American was eager to test the tetron glove, says Prochazka, only to use a gun against the person who caused his injuries.

He was turned down. ■

• Dr. Arthur Prochazka is an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) scientist and the first U of A professor awarded funds by the Neurosciences Canada Foundation.

• The Neurosciences Canada Foundation funds and promotes research into diseases of the brain, such as: Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Lou Gehrig's and Parkinson's diseases, multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia, brain tumors, stroke, epilepsy, traumatic head injuries, depression, deafness and hearing loss, blindness or vision loss and spinal cord injury.

• Under special arrangement with the Neuroscience Canada Foundation, the AHFMR chose Alberta scholars, fellows and student awardees based upon its international peer review process.

• Other U of A award winners include: Miguel Martin-Caraballo, Department of Physiology and Glen Newell, Department of Pharmacology.

» quick » facts

President Fraser takes stock of 1998

By Geoff McMaster

If there's one thing President Rod Fraser has little patience for, it's an "overzealous attention to bureaucratic detail." He considers bean counting a waste of time, and has encouraged graduating students to nurture a similar disdain.

Paraphrasing George Bernard Shaw, Fraser says "There are so many people who can give you the thousand and one reasons for why things are the way they are. What we need more of are those who dream of a better way of doing things and say, 'Why not?'"

Perhaps that's why he places so much emphasis on the international scene, on embracing the concept of global citizenship. After all, this is a president who spends more time travelling than any of his predecessors, and whether or not one agrees with that approach, Fraser himself is clearly devoted to his vision of progress.

Last October he took a whirlwind tour of Mexico and South America (including Brazil, Argentina and Chile), determined to raise the university's profile in countries looking beyond their own borders for higher learning. Many universities, he says, are under huge pressure to upgrade their faculty to the PhD or at least master's level — a gold mine for student recruitment.

"What we are seeing is quite an opportunity for the University of Alberta to be seen as one recommended for receiving such students," he says.

One cultural trend that struck him on his travels to the Third World was the prevalent belief, even among 10- and 11-year-olds, that they would be left behind if they didn't know English and own a laptop by the year 2000. Given that widespread sensitivity to the global community, what better opportunity to raise the U of A banner?

"We have a particularly good group of people involved in teaching English as a second language, and especially teaching teachers of ESL."

Closer to home, Fraser says he'd like the legacy of last month's human rights conference to be lasting and real, changing practices in local communities. He was particularly impressed, he says, with Archbishop Desmond Tutu's belief in truth and reconciliation as the most effective strategy for countries working through histories of oppression and says Canadians can learn from it.

"It seemed to me it's basically throwing out a challenge to scholars to help think through the different options and help choose the paths that are the right ones to take," he says. The formation of a

"There are so many people who can give you the thousand and one reasons for why things are the way they are. What we need more of are those who dream of a better way of doing things and say, 'Why not?'"

President Rod Fraser



Geoff McMaster

think tank or research institute devoted to human-rights issues might be one concrete measure to meet this challenge, he says.

But first and foremost, he feels it's up to the university to build stronger ties with neglected or forgotten communities, to take a larger role in ensuring that disadvantaged children in our society receive adequate attention in their formative years.

"The question is how best to work with the city of Edmonton, or with different non-profit agencies, and how best to take some of the research results of jurisdictions around the world and help share that experience in our own community...and we have to start doing a substantially bet-

ter job with some of our Aboriginal communities."

Looking back over the past year, however, Fraser says the three most significant accomplishments of the university have been the success of the fund-raising campaign (which this month hit the five-year target of \$144.65 almost two years ahead of schedule), the high rate in the transfer of technology research to industry, and the improved ranking (third) in the reputation category of Maclean's annual survey of universities.

"We are indeed beginning to succeed in sharing the University of Alberta story," he says.

At the top of the president's list of priorities for the new year is the completion of the Administrative Systems Review project — the introduction of new software systems for university record keeping—and plugging the brain drain through the successful renewal and retention of faculty.

But perhaps most pressing is the need to raise the university's profile in the province. While "we've been doing a lot of things to make our lot better," he says, it's now time to convince Alberta taxpayers to support the university as public funding becomes increasingly scarce.

"When somebody mentions the University of Alberta, the response [across the province] should be, 'That's my university.'" ■

The National Gun Registry: Friend or Foe?

By Joanne Vincenten, executive director, Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research

Let's face it: Guns are dangerous. Shotguns and rifles are designed to kill—and do it efficiently and effectively. If we want to live in a safe and caring Alberta, it makes sense to ensure these weapons are used for legitimate purposes—not to kill or maim our friends or family.

Unfortunately, when talk turns to preventing needless injury due to the misuse of firearms, Albertans especially seem to view any attempt to reduce firearm-related injuries as an affront to their personal human rights. Ironically, it's in these pockets of outrage where we find some of the highest gun death and injury rates in the country. Study after study, both in Canada and internationally, show that more guns mean more gun-related injury.

In Alberta alone, between 1989 and 1995, there was a yearly average of 22 firearm homicides, 134 firearm suicides and 167 firearm-related hospitalizations (between 1989 and 1994), giving Alberta one of the highest firearm death rates in the country (6.2 per 100,000 compared to a national average of 4.6 per 100,000). It's no coincidence Alberta trails only the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in gun ownership, with 39 per cent of households owning at least one gun, according to 1997 Department of Justice figures.

Unfortunately, it is often Alberta's children who pay the price. The rate of children killed with guns in Alberta is

almost twice the national average and it is in fact as high as in Israel and Northern Ireland. What's even more tragic is that many of these deaths are preventable. Most often, the firearms used in these incidents are rifles or shotguns that have not been properly stored.

Bill C-68, which took effect Dec. 1 with the opening of a national gun registry, states that unrestricted rifle and shotgun owners have until 2001 to obtain a licence for their weapons, and until 2003 to register their guns with the national gun registry.

Howls of protest have surrounded the legislation, many surrounding the effectiveness of such a system and objecting to infringements on how guns are used in our society. Let's remember, Bill C-68 is not a magic pill—it won't instantly eradicate gun-related injuries by itself. It's also not designed to wrench shotguns and rifles away from people who use them for farm work or enjoy hunting. Instead, it is part of a much larger strategy to make Albertans, and all Canadians, safer by reducing the number of gun-related injuries and ensuring gun owners can continue to use rifles and shotguns in a safe and responsible manner.

Registration will assist in police investigations. There are an estimated 5 million unrestricted rifles and shotguns in Canada. Currently, police have no way of knowing who owns these weapons. While police have access to lists of restricted gun owners,

their investigations of incidents involving rifles and shotguns are often slowed because there is no way to match seized weapons to their owners.

The new legislation will also discourage the storage of unwanted or unneeded rifles and shotguns, thus reducing the number of easily-accessible weapons in the province. According to public-health officials, half the firearms in Canadian households had not been used in the previous year. The registration procedure will prompt gun owners to consider their own firearm needs. Additionally, police will now be much more effective in ensuring compliance with safe firearm storage regulations. It will be easier to track gun theft and make sure licenced shotgun and rifle owners store their guns properly.

Restricting access to rifles and shotguns will put a significant dent in the third most common means of injury death for Canadians aged 15-24 (behind only motor-vehicle collisions and suicide by other means). Reduced access will make it tougher for young Canadians to take their own lives. Will people still commit suicide? Unfortunately, yes. But for many whose decision to take their own lives is made due to convenient access to a firearm—one of the most lethal means of committing suicide available—it can mean the difference between life and death.

Is the gun registry a waste of money? Some estimates peg the cost to society of

gun-related injury at over \$6 billion annually. More than 1,300 people are killed due to gun-related injury each year in Canada and one thousand more are injured. The cost of Bill C-68 to the average gun owner? A \$60 licence fee per gun every 5 years and a \$10 registration fee for each new weapon. Some would argue the bigger waste of taxpayer dollars is the loss—both financial and societal—caused by needless firearm-related injuries. You do the math.

Obviously, a career criminal is not likely to jog down to the registry office tomorrow to register his weaponry. But that's not what Bill C-68's shotgun and rifle provisions are all about. The legislation targets the problem of weapons, originally intended for other uses, being used to injure people either intentionally or unintentionally. It speaks to the majority of Albertans—people who want to make sure the guns in our province aren't used to kill or hurt people.

This legislation is not the whole solution, but if properly implemented, Bill C-68 will help prevent gun death and injury in this province by helping restrict improper use of rifles and shotguns.

The Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research, like other injury prevention groups, is committed to a long-term strategy for the reduction of gun control injuries. And we won't succeed until we, as a society, start taking responsibility for these dangerous weapons in our midst. ■

folio letters to the editor

On November 29, the University of Alberta experienced a wonderful, moving event: the first annual University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights, which was delivered by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. By agreeing to deliver the inaugural Lectureship, Archbishop Tutu set a standard for the event and has begun its legacy. We should be proud that our University has hosted, and will continue to host, such an important, unique event.

Part of the University's role is to expose the campus and off-campus communities to current, relevant issues and to provide opportunities for their discussion throughout the year. In this vein, I encourage you to take what you heard and experienced at the Lectureship and utilize it in your classes, student groups, organizations and so on, as tools for dialogue and action. To facilitate this, the text of Archbishop Tutu's address is available on-line at www.ualberta.ca/~lecture, and a video of the event is available for loan through the Office of Human Rights and for sale through the International Centre.

I would like to congratulate all who were involved with the inaugural University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights—for making it a reality, for ensuring its success and for creating a memorable beginning to a new and important event on our campus.

Doug Owram
Vice-President (Academic) and Provost

Dear Folio
I read with great interest the article on "The year 2000 problem: fact, fiction and fear" by Dr. Schaeffer in the Nov 27 issue of Folio. I thought that finally the computing science department has become aware that there is a world-wide computer problem, called Y2K, which has the potential to affect us in a catastrophic manner.

I say "finally" because last summer I paid a visit to the Computing Science Department, and spoke to a long time staff member there (name withheld). I asked him his opinion on the situation but found that not only did he not appear aware of the problem, he did not believe it was a topic of conversation within the department.

This was a surprising statement since the headline speaker at the last University computer symposium, held on this campus a year and a half ago, was Peter de Jager, a man considered the world guru on the Y2K problem.

Dr. Schaeffer feels that we are being bargained with media "(mis)information" on Y2K. I have been following media reports on Y2K for a year and a half and am overwhelmed by the lack of information. It is almost as if the media is indifferent and dismissive of anyone who sounds even remotely alarmist. It likes to focus in on how much money is being made by people who speak on the subject, or offer Y2K services, and it refuses to do investigative journalism.

The only real source of information on this issue has been the internet. Any search engine will bring back scores of sites for the term Y2K. The former director of CIBC's

(Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce) renowned Year 2000 program, Joe Boivin, suggests that on a scale of one to ten, ten being the worst, he is sitting at 8 for a global catastrophe. (<http://www.globalmf.org/>) Rick Cowles, one of the leading experts on the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem, specializing in Y2K impact on the electric utility industry and microprocessor-based control systems, is saying that the North American electric power grid WILL GO DOWN. (<http://www.euY2K.com/newsroom.htm>) Transalta Utilities may be able to float alone without being connected to the power grid, but I sincerely hope they try it before hand, and not wait until they have no choice because of a sudden massive power generator overload.

I would ask Dr. Schaeffer that with 80 per cent of the world's money being binary bits, un-backed by paper currency, with not a single major bank in the world being Y2K compliant, and with all banks around the world being interconnected, what will we do for money if the banks don't get their act together? How will we get food and supplies if our noncompliant railroads can't operate their computer-controlled switches? Will they hire and train 2000 manual-switch operators? These switches can't be operated manually! And who are you going call for help, if the phone line is dead?

Perhaps Dr. Schaeffer can name one Fortune 500 company that has solved the Y2K problem. Perhaps he can give me a list of large computer programming projects that were ever finished on time. Maybe he

can tell me why, at this late date, billions are still being spent on this problem and the cost is escalating every day. AT&T is planning to spend \$700 million on Y2K. This is up from \$500 million, the estimate last May. (<http://www.computerworld.com/home/print.nsf/all/9811307E32>) And why does the government of Canada see fit to have the Canadian military ready to deal with a country-wide emergency (Project "abacus") if there is no real problem?

So what am I doing to prepare for Y2K? I put a little cash each month in a safety deposit box. I fill 2 litre juice containers with water and put them in the basement. I store a little extra food every month. I am making sure all my family has good warm clothing and footwear.

But these are small things. Being part of the University community I feel that some symbolic act needs to be done by this institution to wake up the city and the Alberta government so that they can start contingency planning. Here is my idea and I think it will work. It will certainly get media attention and it will only cost a few thousand dollars. If it goes ahead I will donate \$100 to the cause. My idea is that the University bring in a drill truck to put in a fresh water well, with a hand pump, in the middle of Quad...then we pray we never have to use it.

Sincerely,
Albert Huizinga
Specialist Technician, Department of
Computer and Electrical Engineering

Eugenics began as a Darwin family affair, says historian

Evolutionary theorist feared inbreeding in his own clan

By Geoff McMaster

The eugenics movement has been mostly discredited since the Nazi atrocities of the Second World War, so it's easy to forget it was once considered a "new religion" among the most high-minded and politically correct. Especially in Britain, selective human breeding was considered the solution to the country's moral ills.

Historians offer a number of explanations for the origins of the eugenics movement in the 19th century, from concern over the declining birth rate to systemic racism to contempt for the lower class. None, however, is quite so quirky and compelling as the explanation offered by Dr. James Moore, author of the widely acclaimed, best-selling biography, *Darwin*.

According to Moore's latest research, eugenics was the natural child, so to speak, of Charles Darwin's personal anxiety. The father of evolutionary theory profoundly feared the results of inbreeding in his immediate family, says Moore, and he passed those fears on to his children and ultimately his country.

"What I think is happening here is, on one level, a family obsession was imposed on a large segment of the British upper middle class," says the professor of science and technology history at Open University in Milton Keynes, England. Moore was on campus earlier this month to present his findings to the history and classics department.

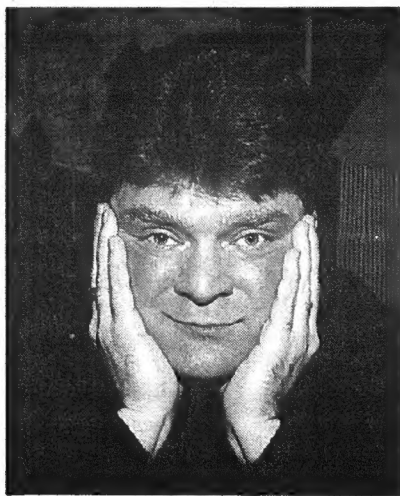
"The initiating impulse to the 20th century obsession with breeding better human beings arises from a family's preoc-

cupation with the consequences of their own breeding."

The reproductive relationships in the Darwin family are enough to make your head spin. Charles Darwin married his first cousin, Emma Wedgwood. His sister also married one of her Wedgwood cousins and two other Wedgwood cousins married their Darwin first cousins. In all there were four first-cousin marriages constituting what Moore calls the Darwoodian pedigree.

Though it wasn't uncommon for first cousins to marry in the 19th century, "Charles worried about this for a number of reasons," says Moore. "He knew from his contact with animal and plant breeders that inbreeding can cause both bad and good things to happen. It's clear that from the very beginning of his engagement, he was keen to interpret their relationship, and later the children who would be born, as natural history phenomena."

Darwin observed his children as closely as he monitored "apes in the London Zoo," to see which inherited traits they displayed. Sure enough, all of them fell victim to his own defective digestive condition. His eldest daughter died at age



Dr. James Moore

10 with severe gastrointestinal problems, and one after another, the remaining seven children fell ill at about the same age. "Over a period of 15 years, Darwin discovered how heredity works when first cousins marry," says Moore.

Darwin's five surviving sons became actively involved in the eugenics movement. His son George compiled statistics on

the offspring of first-cousin marriages and also checked lunatic asylums for traits of inferior human beings. His youngest son Horace, the sickliest of the lot, started an engineering company to make anthropometric instruments used in measuring body parts to assess genetic quality. And both sons worked closely with Francis Galton, founder of the eugenics movement in the 1880s, which was hailed as "a new basis of moral obligation."

Eventually, most of the Darwin brothers moved to Cambridge and joined the Cambridge University Eugenics Society, all "deeply concerned with the proliferation of sub-normal working-class children in town." Darwin's second youngest son Leonard succeeded Galton as president of the British Eugenics Society.

"What may have driven the Darwin-Wedgewoods into eugenic concerns was not their genius but a deep fear of their own inbred weakness," says Moore.

Understanding eugenics as a form of psycho-pathology — "a projection onto the wider world of the fear of one's own hereditary deficiency" — may help us understand similar trends in contemporary society, Moore argues. He cites certain forms of gene therapy and the screening of embryos as examples of "eugenics through the back door."

"The long-term consequences of this will be a biologically stratified society ... people who have become economically successful will be able to afford techniques of genetic screening and therefore rid themselves of hereditary diseases, and in the long run constitute a class apart — the 'naturals' and what is called the 'genrich,'" he says.

"If it could be established that what was driving this was not really concern for health and happiness for future generations of humanity but a deep-seated concern for one's own worthlessness, that could have policy implications."

He adds it would be interesting to explore whether his theory of projection might apply to the early eugenics movement in Alberta in the '20s and '30s. History professor Dr. Julien Martin, however, says little work has been done by historians on "the degree to which people in Alberta were actually reflecting on their own particular families." ■

Head of Banff Centre a tenacious dreamer

Donald Cameron (1901-1989)

By Geoff McMaster

He seemed the least likely in the class of 1930 to take an interest in the fine arts. His first degree was in agriculture, his master's thesis elucidated "Harvesting Methods in Relation to Wheat Quality," and according to fellow graduate Elsie Gowan, "His university years were innocent of dalliance with music or drama."

And yet as the person largely responsible for turning the Banff Centre into Canada's premiere professional development centre for the arts and business, Donald Cameron was described by former University of Alberta President Walter Johns as "the greatest friend of the arts in the history of Canada."

Upon graduating from university, Cameron began teaching with the Department of Extension (as it was then called) in 1930 under Ned Corbett, founder of the Banff School of Fine Arts and one of the most profound influences in Cameron's life. Cameron's own interest in the arts, however, didn't truly come to life until he won a Carnegie Corporation scholarship to study the folk schools of Denmark. Deeply impressed with the schools' contribution to Danish life, Cameron returned home looking for ways to emulate the Danish experiment.

In 1936 he succeeded Corbett as director of the University of Alberta's extension department. Here, he developed the core of his educational philosophy, believing the university belonged first and foremost to the people of Alberta, existing to serve the social, economic and cultural life of the entire province.

"To those who remain on the farms, and in the villages and towns," he wrote in a 1945 *New Trail* article, "as well as to those who come to its cloistered halls in search of knowledge, matrimony, and what have you, it should be, in the best sense of the term, a people's university." And the more he promoted active citizen-

ship during his extensive travels throughout Alberta and the rest of the country, the more he became convinced the arts were the life-blood of any community.

But it was as director of the Banff School of Fine Arts, "a centre for ideas, a centre of inspiration, and a centre for creative expression with few equals anywhere," that Cameron would make his greatest impact on cultural life in Canada. When he took over the directorship, the school, which had started on a shoestring budget of \$2500, ran three small summer programs in theatre, painting and music. Students had to compete with tourists for accommodation and table space in restaurants, classes were held in Banff's public schools, and performances were mounted in a decrepit old theatre on the current site of the Parks Administration building. Under Cameron, the school's fine arts division embraced a wide range of courses in choral singing, weaving and design, ballet, photography, figure skating, French-language training, creative writing, radio and television production, and crafts.

To those who knew him, Cameron's drive and dedication were never in question but sometimes made him difficult to deal with. In the words of biographer R.J. Clark, "Cameron has been characterized variously as energetic, dedicated, outspoken, forthright, tough, stubborn and, sometimes, perverse. In guiding his actions, these traits have made him at times a controversial figure. Adult education and the arts in Canada have been aided immeasurably by them."

Cameron's "campus in the clouds," aided first with a Carnegie grant and then with funds from former Calgary Herald publisher, Col. J.H. Woods, quickly became the educational jewel of the province. In 1947, after tramping around in the snow for three hours one moonlit evening looking for just the right location for a new

campus, Cameron persuaded Parks Canada to turn over the prime St. Julien site at the base of Tunnel Mountain. There, said Cameron, after considerable "pleading and panhandling ... rattling my tin cup over the highways and byways of Canada," he built three chalets and an administrative building. Soon after, he launched comprehensive management and conference programs.

The length of the various courses was gradually extended into winter, and by 1979 all divisions were in operation year round. Since 1933, it has accommodated 41,000 artists. Last year, 25,000 conference guests, 2,400 artists and 1,600 managers attended one of the school's four divisions.

The centre is today the most financially

self-sufficient, public post-secondary institution in Canada, receiving less than 25 per cent of its funding from government. Some of its alumni or faculty over the years include such outstanding luminaries as W.O. Mitchell, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Susan Aglukark, Robert Fulford, Loreena McKennitt, Oscar Peterson, Fiona Reid, Bruno Gerussi, Margaret Laurence, and Violet Archer.

In addition to running the Banff Centre, Cameron also served on the Canadian Senate for 14 years. He chaired the 1958 Royal Commission on Education in Alberta, one of the most wide-sweeping studies of its kind in Canadian history, and was a member of the National Film Board of Canada from 1941 to 1949. ■

Christmas spirit at the U of A



A good-spirited partnership between U of A Bookstores, Campus Recreation and Save-On-Foods pulled in \$3,000 worth of groceries for the Campus Food Bank's annual Christmas food drive. Delivering the items are: Bookstores' Monique Proctor, assistant director of marketing and Todd Anderson, marketing director, with Campus Recreation director, Hugh Hoyles and Ron World, Save-On-Foods' Mayfield store manager.

Bad boy of Ukrainian literature silenced for 60 years

By Geoff McMaster

He led what is perhaps Ukraine's most significant literary movement of this century, yet few in his homeland have ever heard his name.

That's because most of Mykhail Semenko's work was destroyed when he was executed in 1937 on the trumped-up charge of "bourgeois nationalism," an offence attributed to many of the Soviet Union's intelligentsia. The Stalinist purges of the '30s virtually erased this "bad boy" of Ukrainian letters from history, creating a silence that lasted almost 60 years.

When Soviet communism began to crumble, however, in the late 1980s, Dr. Oleh Ilnytskyj (modern languages and comparative studies) went to work in Kiev and Lvov digging up the few documents still in existence. In his book, *Ukrainian Futurism*, he resurrects Semenko's legacy, exploring the cultural system and volatile political climate that shaped this major descendent of Ukrainian modernism.

"I have a sense of satisfaction that I really opened up an area which was in total darkness," says Ilnytskyj. "Being a pioneer in this area, it's nice to see that it's become of interest to the younger generation."

Some of the Ukrainian writers who launched their careers in the '70s and early '80s were inspired by the avant-garde spirit of Semenko's work, says Ilnytskyj, with "only the fuzziest notion" of what it meant or where it came from. It will now

be "a little easier for them" to understand Semenko's place in their country's literary history.

Semenko began his writing career around 1910 as a relatively conventional poet of the Romantic strain, more concerned with "flowers and hearts and souls" than with adopting the modernist's experimental view of a rapidly developing urban culture, says Ilnytskyj. As the revolution approached, however, Semenko demonstrated "a new found irony and self-mockery," determined to free his country from the stifling sensibility of the 19th-century drawing room and from the growing pretentiousness of high modernism. He looked to the avant-garde in Russia and Italy for inspiration.

As a loyal comrade of the socialist dream, he began drafting a new theory of literature, called Futurism, to complement communist party ideology. His poetry took on the imagery of technological innovation: machines, towers and industrial plants.

The party was decidedly unimpressed.

"Semenko was going to develop futurism into an artistic method which he naively thought the party was going to adopt," says Ilnytskyj. "He would argue that since the proto-communist state was really in the advance stages of history, we need to find a distinct type of artistic system on the avant-garde of art ... But the party was always suspicious of the avant-garde — it didn't fit its picture of the proletariat state and what its culture should be."

Semenko pushed for expansion, diversification and innovation in art, declaring that "everything that has been discovered and experienced is of no interest." The party pushed for control and centralization of power. The two just didn't mix.

In 1930 his literary journal was banned, futurists ran for cover, and Semenko returned to writing fairly orthodox poetry. He had already made his mark as a radical, however, and was soon imprisoned as a threat to the state and eventually shot.

"The accusations against him were pure fiction," says Ilnytskyj. It was part of an attempt to "eliminate the intelligentsia



Ukrainian poet Mykhail Semenko, courtesy of the Harvard University Press

as any kind of centre for opposition to the party ... it decimated an entire class."

Were it not for the help of Semenko's daughter Iryna, his work would likely never have resurfaced, says Ilnytskyj. She

helped him piece together the poet's life before she died a few years ago. The result is a valuable contribution to the literary history of a country redefining itself in the post-Soviet world. ■



Dr. Oleh Ilnytskyj

Gunnars' *Night Train* a mournful journey towards self-determination

By Geoff McMaster

Toni Morrison once wrote that to be free is "to narrate the world," to tell one's own story instead of surrendering to a foreign script. Kristjana Gunnars' *Night Train to Nykøbing* is about one kind of journey towards self-determination, specifically a woman's struggle to free herself from the false expectations of romance.

The fifth in a series of short books published by Red Deer College Press beginning in 1989, Gunnars once again combines a number of genres — fiction, poetry, essay, autobiography, memoir and travel writing — into a "deliberate fusion" of impressions conveying the pain of separation, loss, and waiting.

Gunnars says people often have difficulty reading her brand of fiction, feeling it's too sad, or doesn't turn out the way it should. But as far as she's concerned, that's precisely the point.

"I wanted to record my sense that we're somehow being cheated by our notion of what is good classical literature, and our sense that a good novel doesn't in fact distress us but comforts us and puts us to sleep ... we've got such a strong faction in Canadian literature that believes in literature as narcosis."

While Gunnars insists the book is fictionalized autobiography, stretched and exaggerated "all out of proportion" to explore a greater truth, there are numerous references to campus life that keep people guessing, she says. The narrator is, after all, a creative writing instructor in the English department (as is Gunnars). She mentions two of the highlighted guest lecturers of the past few years — Slovenian cultural



Kristjana Gunnars

theorist Slavoj Zizek and Native American writer Paula Gunn. And the narrator's colleagues is a strange composite of the infamous "merit-only" gang of male professors who nine years ago objected to the hiring of five women in the department.

At the heart of *Night Train to Nykøbing*, however, is an intense if impossible love affair. The narrator and her lover have conspired to commit a crime somewhere in Denmark, and must separate for an unbearable length of time so as not to arouse suspicion (or so we are led to believe through an allusion to Emile Zola's *Thérèse Raquin*).

But that's all we're told of this particular plot. What drives Gunnars' narrative is what David Guterson (*Snow Falling on Cedars*) calls "the deliberately controlled hysteria" of waiting. It is the perverse and sometimes endless postponement of life that occurs when we are under the spell of a false reality.

"What I wanted to construct was an argument against romance, [which is] a false representation of what human beings are able to do or should be doing or can do," says Gunnars. "Inside relationships

that are embroiled and impassioned there are these feelings of guilt, danger and threat that belong to the whole arena of romance — there is always a dark side and I just wanted to bring that out."

"I also wanted to record somehow what's called in the book 'the deliberate hysteria of waiting' because that's also a large part of a lot of people's lives. You're waiting if you're a student, even though you're working hard, for your life to begin. And if you're a professor or a worker, you're waiting for it to be over so you can retire."

Aside from the entrapment of romantic love, Gunnars also takes the modern university to task, if only in the sub-text. The problem, as she sees it, is the erosion of the academy by corporate culture, a "total bureaucratic system where you can't really unfold as a person."

"We've become so corporatized lately, and that's what I'm reacting to. The university is a corporation, the corporations are also becoming mega-corporations — the government is itself becoming a kind of corporation, and I'm not sure any of this is good for us." ■

A "maple leaf" dream come true

U of A skills help South African fight illiteracy

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

During the darkest days of the apartheid regime in South Africa, one mother sighed, looked at a picture of a Canadian flag she had hung on the wall and promised her seven children: "Some day, I'm going to take you there."

That some day is now for her daughter, Desirée Blankenberg, 30, a University of Alberta master's student in educational psychology (special education). "It stuck in the back of my mind," she says. And it made her decision where to pursue graduate studies with her Rotary scholarship easy. The country in the far north her mother dreamed about, with a free, open

and just society, is "everything I thought it would be."

Here she can walk into any restaurant, hotel, or bar and not worry if she'll be refused service because "we're full." Nor will she have to wait until all white people are served first before a clerk acknowledges she's next in line at a counter.

Apartheid may be dead on the South African books, but not in all South African hearts, particularly in the rural areas and the Eastern Cape where she's from. "The apartheid laws were very strict there," explains Blankenberg. It's why her parents moved their seven children to Cape Town,

so their offspring could easily access the only university in South Africa open to mixed races — those classified as neither white nor black by the government.

Taking a coffee break in the Students' Union Building, Blankenberg still has to finish term papers and pack for her three-week Christmas vacation back to South Africa.

She's looking forward to telling everyone about Canada: how she loves the cold, how the snow crunches under her feet, how she can go anywhere with anyone, and how she advises a group of education students — who are all white.

"In South Africa, non-whites cannot teach whites. I told my sister about the practicum group...and the advice I give. She said: 'And they listen to you?'"

There's still a hierarchy in her homeland. "It's a result of a system that moulded them [whites] that way," she explains. "It could have been the other way around. It could have been me there."

People often asked about her lack of bitterness. "It's a destructive energy I can do without," she says, preferring to look forward to a future helping minorities in South Africa get the educational opportunities they deserve.

Spirits of apartheid foes live on Workers' hero

South Africa's past not easily forgotten

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

For Indira Haripersad, listening to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu speak was like listening to her father all over again. "My father was a quiet, unassuming man, gentle and shy. But he was very passionate about what he did and what needed to be done in South Africa."

Haripersad's parents, George and Vera Ponnens, battled South Africa's apartheid system all their lives. As members of the Communist party and African National Congress (ANC), and as pillars of the

South African Congress of Trade Unions, the Ponnens were the first man and woman to be banned in their province, Natal, now known as KwaZulu Natal. It created a ridiculous situation, says Haripersad.

"Banned people were not allowed to speak to each other." They had to check in with police every day and could only travel within a certain perimeter.

Nevertheless, the Ponnens household in Durban, was a hub of anti-apartheid and trade union activity from 1940 to 1966, an accessible site because they lived in an "undeclared area" where all races could meet. It was a necessity for the Ponnens: George was a South African of East Indian descent; Vera was a British Jew. She was classified as East Indian by the government after her marriage. Many thought she was shopping with her maid's children when out with her own in the streets of Durban.

While Haripersad and her sister cooked and cleaned for the many guests that walked through their home, the Ponnens conducted meeting after meeting for ANC members, Communists, Marxists and Leninists, trade unionists and anyone else fighting for change.

"We grew up surrounded by this," says Haripersad, a staff development and train-

ing officer for U of A libraries, an experience that she says influences her role helping people to better themselves. But despite every corner filled with atheists, "We had a huge Christmas tree at the house, with ornaments and lots of presents," she says with a laugh. In a county filled with Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Jews, theirs was a community "church" of freedom-fighters, not worshippers.

It was a fight that saw her father jailed in solitary confinement and tortured for 113 days in 1964. He escaped and fled the country a year later using the "underground railroad" to get to Botswana and join the ANC in exile there. She remembers her father hugging his granddaughter and saying goodbye to everyone, although she didn't understand why at the time. "It's a picture that stays in my mind forever," says Haripersad. Vera Ponnens joined her husband shortly after.

The governmental eyes soon turned towards Haripersad and her sister.

A school teacher at the time, Haripersad says she was constantly harassed by police, looking for information about her parents and their whereabouts. The disruptions at her school became too much. "We left for vacation to Zambia in 1968 and never returned." Three years later, she, her husband and two children landed in Toronto, then Edmonton in 1976.

The Ponnens were also in Canada at this time. George continued his fight against injustices in South Africa, a fight he began when he was 10, travelling to East Germany and Holland to drum up support for ANC members in Tanzania.

Haripersad admits she never thought she'd see the day things would change in South Africa but remembers being "totally elated" when the apartheid system fell apart. "I just couldn't believe it. I was grateful at least one parent was alive to see it." Despite her father's ill health, George Ponnens returned to South Africa to cast his ballot and then attend the inauguration of President Nelson Mandela, by personal invitation. It was South Africa he chose for his final resting ground, this time returning in victory.

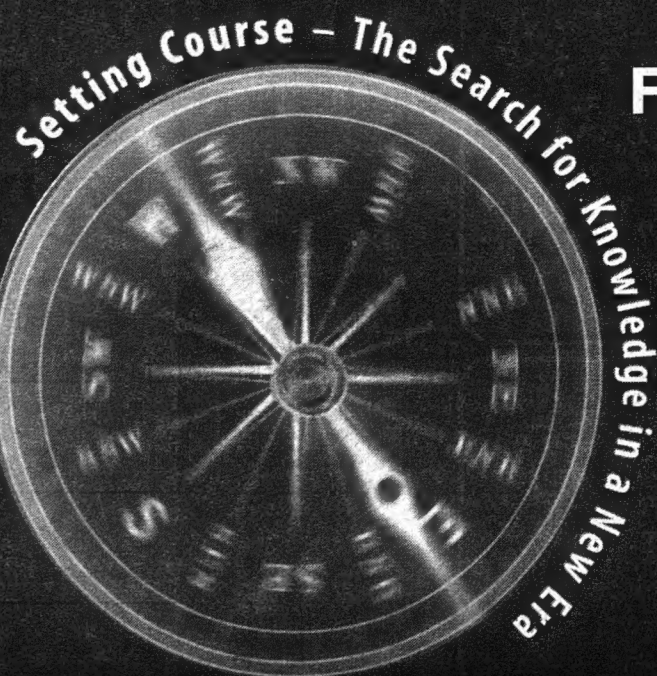
The desire to go back to South Africa to help those caught in the aftermath of the apartheid system has been tempting, says Haripersad. "There are millions of people without education, without marketable skills...and it manifests itself in violence. People want a better life." She's been offered training and development opportunities with the ANC and with the military. "But I sat down and looked at everything I have here (two children and grandchildren). Spiritually and intellectually, I'm part of South Africa. Emotionally, Canada is my home." ■

Lifelong struggle ends with an X



Indira Haripersad

Tina Chang



Faculty of Extension Update 1998

www.extension.ualberta.ca/Update

Take a virtual tour of our vision and progress as we strive for relevant and meaningful learning for a lifetime.

Native students honor Archbishop Tutu

By Geoff McMaster



Graduate student Desirée Blankenberg at home in Cape Town, South Africa.

While more minorities in South Africa are attending schools, more of them are also dropping out. There's a lack of resources and lack of expertise to handle learning disabilities among a group of people still lacking basic skills, says Blankenberg. "There are few white psychologists in the area, and others are fearful to come...So I decided to get those skills."

As little as five years ago, she wouldn't have been able to travel to the University of Alberta because minorities were not allowed to have passports ("How could we? We would tell the world what it was really like"). It was the "passport paragraph" in her welcoming speech to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu Nov. 27 that started a chain reaction of tears flowing.

Tutu was the inaugural speaker for the U of A's annual Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights, and Blankenberg was one of two students who won an essay competition to welcome him. She spoke proudly of Tutu's passport - and hers.

"Somehow, I was living the time all over again," she says, explaining her emotions that night. She remembered the time South Africans branded Tutu a terrorist and Communist. She remembered where he was from, the heartland of poverty and racist South Africa. She remembered Tutu lived in an earlier time than she, a time "10 times worse" than when she grew up and how could she complain? "All those things came to me as I was reading."

Anger? No. That glint in her eye is determination—to be a role model for a new generation of South Africans, to reach for every opportunity available to better herself and "to rid the African people of the stereotype: a hand out for something."

In a ceremony that brought tears to the eyes of many who attended, the Aboriginal Students' Council presented Archbishop Desmond Tutu with gifts and prayers when he was in Edmonton last month for the international human rights conference.

"I don't think words can describe how I actually felt standing beside him," said council president Doris Gladue. "It's definitely something I will never forget, something I can probably tell my grandchildren."

The students were granted the rare private session with Tutu after winning an essay contest, sponsored by the University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights, on why they wanted to meet with the archbishop (South African student Desirée Blankenberg's essay was also selected). Written by Lewis Cardinal, it was submitted on behalf of the Aboriginal Students' Council.

Since the meeting two weeks ago, many students have continued to talk about the impression Tutu has made on them. At the 10th anniversary of the U of A's native studies program Dec. 3, Gladue said it was time for the council to go beyond being "just a social club" to become more politically active.

"[Tutu] made us more aware of what our position in society will be in the future, as future leaders" she says. "Just being around him has inspired many of us to do more for our community."

The short ceremony began with prayers by elders Violet Gladue and Dr. Stan Wilson. Both were so moved by the occasion they were unable to finish. Kevin Buffalo performed a ceremonial dance and the students then presented traditional gifts to Tutu - eagle feathers, a ribbon shirt, a Metis sash, sweetgrass and a tobacco medicine pouch.



Elders Stan Wilson and Violet Gladue present an eagle feather to Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

To close the ceremony, several students sang the Aboriginal Indian Movement's song of mourning and solidarity, originally composed to honor Leonard Pelletier, a Sioux accused of killing two FBI agents in 1972. The students dedicated the song to Tutu and to Steven Biko, the leader of South Africa's Black Consciousness movement who was tortured to death in 1977.

"Today we honor you for the great work you have done," Lewis Cardinal of Native Student Services told Tutu. "In our eyes you are an elder and a warrior, an elder who has brought light to dark times, and a warrior of peace whose strength and courage has brought healing to your people. We share with you a sacred vision of the precious human spirit."

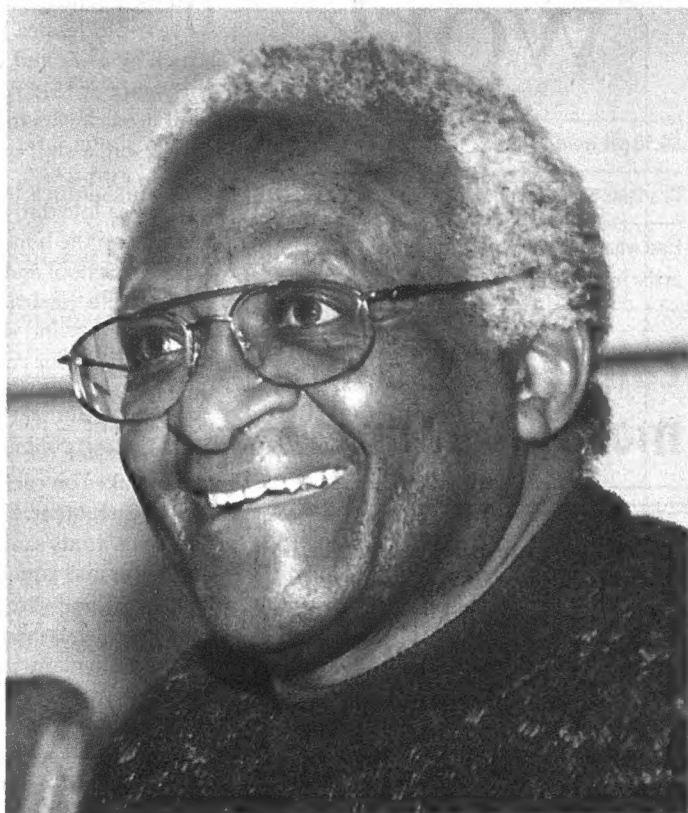
Tutu said the world is now beginning to learn from the wisdom of native elders. "I want to thank you, because you too have strengthened us in your own resilience. You have increasingly held on to your traditions and not been ashamed."

"Remain as you are, and reach the world with your beautiful dances, prayers and traditions."

Native studies student Virginia English said meeting Tutu opened her eyes to the pain shared by native peoples around the world.

"He has that strength to believe that we are people, no matter what other people believe. It's how we as individuals perceive ourselves. He also talks about healing the spirit, and I think that's the biggest step...by healing our spirits we become stronger."

Cardinal added: "Tutu demonstrates to the aboriginal student body here that we can achieve almost anything that we set our mind to - it just takes determination. We have to go beyond feel-good politics and really put our shoulders side by side and try to do something."



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Archbishop Desmond Tutu,

... It's within our customs and traditions that an Elder of your stature be honored for the immense struggle, you continue to undertake, to make this a better world. The courage you've shown in challenging the injustice of your country's apartheid laws inspires many of us to further our dreams in a sacred manner. Your spiritual and intellectual leadership of the South African Council of Churches against the blinded rage of ignorance points to the necessity of awakening our spiritual values.

We always look to Elders for guidance and patience as each generation casts their thread across the void. We know, some day, someone on the other side will send us theirs and together we'll bridge the difference. In this spirit, we look to you as a most respected Elder, a great Warrior of Peace, and seek your wisdom and strength to guide us.

Excerpts from the essay submitted by the Aboriginal Students' Council to win a session with Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Council vice-president Philip Chief read the essay to introduce Tutu at the University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights.

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(Holden Evening Prayer -
Setting by Marty Haugen)

Wednesday, Dec 2: 1st Advent 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec 9: 2nd Advent 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec 16: 3rd Advent 7:30 pm

★★★

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Service with
Holy Communion - 7:30 pm

Christmas Day service with
Holy Communion - 10:00 am
(shared with Our Savior)



In memoriam

JESSICA VELIC

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 27, seven-year-old Jessica Velic was tragically struck by a car and killed at an unmarked crosswalk at 151st Avenue and Victoria Trail. Jessica was the daughter of Theresa Percheson, a staff member in the Industry Liaison Office.

Jessica loved to write poetry and draw. She was on the honor roll in Grade 3 at Kirkness School and was known for her bright smile. Jessica's life was full of loving, caring friends and relatives, and she in turn was a thoughtful young girl, taking the time to play with children who did not have anyone to play with. Jessica and her younger sister, six-year-old Rebecca, liked to play jokes on each other but also took care of each other. One of Jessica and Rebecca's aunts said: "They were like peanut butter and jam. They were together all the time. They were the best of friends." In a prepared statement, Theresa Percheson thanked the many people who have helped her and her family during this tragic time and expressed that the love everyone felt for Jessica will continue forever.

A Celebration of Life memorial service was held on Dec. 2 at Evergreen Funeral Chapel. ■

BRUCE PEEL

Bruce Peel, University of Alberta librarian between 1955-1982, died Nov. 30 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was 82.

Under Peel's direction, the university library became the second largest academic library collection in Canada. During his tenure the library added more than two million volumes, about 450,000 government documents and 1.2 million



microtexts to its holdings. As well, Peel oversaw the planning and construction of several library buildings, including the Cameron and Rutherford North Libraries and collections at the University of Calgary.

As a scholar and historian, Peel's interest was in the Prairies. His *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953* is a classic in the field, while his *Steamboats on the Saskatchewan* and other historical works have brought the history of the Prairies alive for all who have read them. Peel was active in many library and historical associations, serving as president of several, including the Canadian Library Association, the Library Association of Alberta, the Bibliographic Society of Canada and the Canadian Association of Research Libraries.

Peel's work has been recognized with many awards, including the Scroll for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Bibliography and the Queen Elizabeth Silver Jubilee Medal. In 1991, the university awarded him with an honorary Doctor of Laws. In recent years he had nearly completed work on a third edition of his *Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces*. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and their two children. ■

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DR. JOHN TOOGOOD

In his quiet but committed manner, Dr. John Toogood made it his life's mission to espouse the soil conservation ethic. He spent his professional life as a teacher, focusing on extension, technology transfer and public awareness, and in promoting the wise use of soil resources.

Thirty years of this time were spent at the University of Alberta, where he served in teaching, research, extension, and administrative capacities. Few people have spent their lives addressing soils issues from such a broad perspective—in their jobs and in community service.

As a U of A professor, Dr. Toogood's responsibilities included an introductory soils course, a course in irrigation and drainage, and a graduate course in soil physics. He was consistently rated as a "superior" teacher by his students and served as an adviser to more than a dozen graduate students. After his retirement, John accepted a two-year assignment as part of a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project to assist the

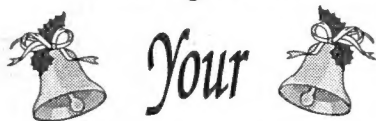
University of Zambia. His leadership was quickly recognized and he was appointed "Team Leader" of the Canadian group to help the soil science department with teaching, research and extension.

His research activities resulted in more than 50 publications of various types, most on soil conservation and soil physics but including several on soil management, fertility and agrometeorology. Some of his more important contributions included the Breton Soil Fertility Plots, the Youngstown Irrigation Plots in southeastern Alberta and the cooperative Fertilizer Research Project. He paid considerable attention to soil testing and designed a soil sampler that found wide usage throughout Alberta. He also initiated research on water erosion in central and northern Alberta.

His final research project at the university dealt with the reclamation of soils following crude-oil spills, a first for Alberta conditions.

Dr. Toogood served as chair of the Department of Soil Science for 15 years. ■

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Web page provides one-stop information site on Canadian civil justice system

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

As part of its mandate to make the legal system more understandable, affordable and accessible for Canadians, the University of Alberta-based Canadian Forum on Civil Justice/Forum canadien sur la justice civile (CFCJ/FCJC) has established a new Web site at: www.cfcj-fcjc.org.

The site, unique in Canada and comprehensive in scope, provides a bibliographic database of more than 2300 reports on civil justice. It is a critical tool not only for practitioners and teachers of law, but also for the public, to inform, educate and involve them in civil justice reform, says Diana Lowe, executive director.

The legal community and the Canadian public have identified the top three concerns about accessibility to the civil justice system: delay, cost and lack of understanding. And a 1996 Canadian Bar Association task force found these complaints to be widespread. But the civil jus-

tice system has been slow to change and new approaches to minimize delays, lower costs, improve efficiencies and increase the level of public understanding are needed.

With an easy-to-use search engine on the Web site, Canadians now have access to an extensive database, divided into categories such as court administration, legal aid, alternative dispute resolution and technology. The site also includes information about pilot projects in each province and territory on civil justice reform.

The CFCJ/FCJC, established by the Canadian Bar Association and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law in January, 1998 will systematically collect information relating to the civil justice system, conduct in-depth research into civil justice operations, share information about best-use practices and serve as a clearinghouse and library for civil justice information. ■

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Designing in the computer-aided environment

Industrial design students at cutting-edge of new technologies

By Dr. Desmond Rochfort

It was not so long ago that students in the Department of Art and Design's industrial design (ID) program sat at drafting tables, pencils in hand, drawing designs for a class-assigned project. With bandsaws and lathes, they would construct their design or product prototype, usually out of wood, spending several hours sanding smooth the surfaces to ensure that "professional" look.

Those days are fast disappearing. Bandsaws and lathes are still used, of course, and students continue to make product prototypes in wood. However, those drafting tables, of which only one or two have been kept back, have now all but disappeared and the ones that remain increasingly look like museum pieces.

In their place in the ID workshop, a new state-of-the-art Computer Aided Design (CAD) laboratory and an equally high-tech Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) milling machine have been built. Together this new array of computing technology provides students in the industrial design program at the U of A with some of the very best industrial design workshop facilities of any school in North America.

On the ground floor of the Fine Arts Building Gallery in the exhibition entitled Industrial Design—Works in Progress: Design in the Computer Aided Environment, Product and Prototype Development are some of the examples of recent work done by third-year ID students utilizing this new technology. Instructed by Keith Rose with technical support from Czarek Gajewski, these student projects show concept work and development on a range of projects including a residential (push-type) lawn mower, automotive dashboard design for an existing vehicle, computer CPU tower and monitor, and a lightweight chainsaw.

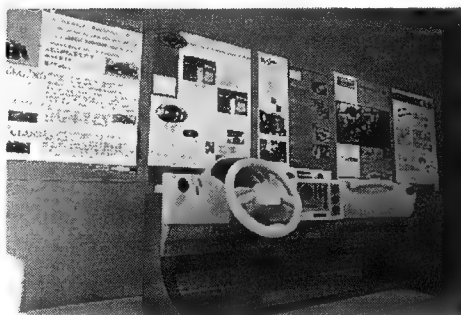
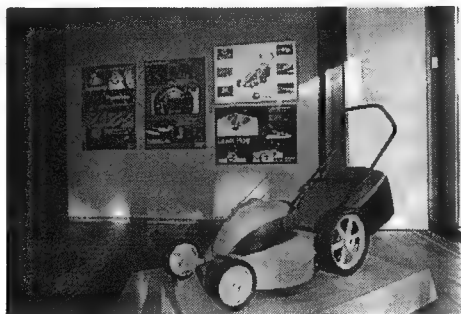
The results are impressive indeed.

For some of the students, this project was their first foray into computer-aided design work and most had taken only one half course in CAD prior to this term. The full scale models, on show, that the students made utilizing the CNC milling machine were important, "in order to solidify the connection between computer-modeling space and the real world," said Keith Rose.

"It's important our students experience their designs at full scale. The more often the designer takes the digitally created work into the real world, the more accurately and predictably he or she will be able to conceptualize their designs

within the computer environment in the future," he said. "I chose to limit the students to working with existing technology primarily due to the time limitations of a three-credit course," he added. "Instead we concentrated on styling and the accurate creation of complex geometry that could be produced at full scale on our CNC machine."

In addition to these, other examples of CAD and CNC product development are also on show in the gallery. These are design concepts for larger team projects carried out in conjunction with other departments, such as computing science and mechanical engineering. They include the Autonomous/Robotic vehicle and a Formula One car. Also on show is the 'Virtual Reality' campus model and 'fly-through' developed by Greg Mamchur, a fourth-year ID student. This impressive computer visualization of the campus is a contribution to the Campus-Way Finding Project, a collaborative research project between the computing science and psychology departments ■



GFC passes accommodation policy

By Geoff McMaster

Students, staff and faculty at the U of A will now stand on legal ground when seeking support for special needs. At its last meeting Nov. 30, the General Faculties Council passed the Reasonable Accommodation Policy, a complement to the Discrimination and Harassment Policy.

It's to protect people on campus from discrimination arising when the circumstances of their work or education run into conflict with needs protected by human rights legislation. It states the university will "take reasonable steps to accommodate individuals who are disadvantaged by employment, tenancy or educational rules, standards, policies or practices because of their race, religious beliefs, color, gender, physical or mental disability, marital status, age, ancestry, place of origin, family status, source of income, sexual

orientation, or political belief, to the extent required by law."

Examples of such accommodation might be allowing a student to write an exam on an alternate date to the one scheduled because of a religious observance, or taking special measures to help an employee who cannot answer a phone because of a physical disability.

"It's one thing to say we will not discriminate and here are the things you can do if you feel you've been discriminated against," says Dr. Anne Marie Decore, associate vice-president (academic). It's another to go the extra mile to accommodate, she says. "You have to have mechanisms in place to forestall discrimination." However she adds the policy is really a legal "explication" of practices already in place on campus for years now. ■

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY DISCRETIONARY FUND

Congratulations to successful applicants who are working to make the University of Alberta more open and inclusive. Some of the Fall 1998 projects which received seed grants to further employment and educational equity goals are:

- "Choices", a program to encourage grade six Aboriginal girls to stay in school and study science (WISEST, in collaboration with Native Student Services)
- Recruitment Initiative: Aboriginals and Persons with Disabilities (Human Resource Services, in collaboration with the Office of Human Rights)
- Fostering an Intercultural Support Community (Department of Secondary Education)

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positions

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Please note that there is an internal candidate for this position.

FACULTY POSITIONS UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for two full time academic positions at the University of Alberta, Department of Occupational Therapy for July 1, 1999 or earlier if suitable candidates are found.

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, consisting of Departments of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech and Language Pathology, is the single occupant in a recently renovated facility that provides excellent resources for teaching and learning. The Department of Occupational Therapy offers B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Occupational Therapy and participates fully in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree program in Rehabilitation Science.

1. ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION

This Assistant Professor clinical-track position is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the fieldwork curriculum. This will include development of fieldwork sites, supervising students in non-traditional placements and counseling students. Candidates must possess a minimum of a B.Sc. OT

plus a M.Sc. degree. Knowledge of curriculum development an asset. Teaching at the undergraduate level will be required. Minimum 3-year appointment.

2. CLINICAL TRACK TEACHING APPOINTMENT (OCCUPATIONAL) THERAPY GENERALISM

Candidate must possess a B.Sc. OT and M.Sc. degree. As this is a clinical position, indicators of teaching proficiency are required. Experience in curriculum development an asset. Minimum 3-year appointment at the Assistant Professor level.

Salary for both positions will be commensurate with qualifications. Closing date for applications is February 19, 1999, but applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Qualified applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching interests, and the names of three (3) references to:

Dr. A. Cook, Dean
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
3-48 Corbett Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T6G 2G4

Phone: (403) 492-5991 Area code 403 changes to 780 January 25, 1999

e-mail: albert.cook@ualberta.ca

Further information on the position may be obtained by contacting: Dr. Vivien Hollis, Department Chair, Fax (403) 492-1626, e-mail: vhollis@ualberta.ca

FACULTY POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for one full time tenure-track position specializing in Neuroscience at the University of Alberta, Department of Occupational Therapy for July 1, 1999 or earlier if suitable candidates are found.

The Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, consisting of Departments of Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech and Language Pathology, is the single occupant in a recently renovated facility that provides excellent resources for teaching and learning. The Department of Occupational therapy offers B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Occupational Therapy and participates fully in an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree program in Rehabilitation Science.

Successful applicants will be expected to teach in the undergraduate and graduate program and maintain an active research profile. Candidates must possess a Ph.D. degree. A background in occupational therapy is preferred, but other areas will be considered.

Evidence of successful grant applications will be advantageous.

Rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications at the Assistant Professor or Associate Professor level. Closing date for applications is February 19, 1999, but applications will be accepted until positions are filled. Qualified applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of teaching and research interests, and the names of three (3) references to:

Dr. A. Cook, Dean
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The Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science at the University of Alberta invites applications for a Canada-Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund Chair in the area of Molecular Biology of Beef Cattle Production. The tenure-track appointment will be made at the Associate or Full Professor level with a balance of 75% research and 25% teaching.

The appointee will develop a world-class research and teaching program on the application of molecular biology techniques to the improvement of beef and beef cattle production. The Chair is mandated to enhance cooperation between scientists and other stakeholders in an Alberta beef research network which include the University of Alberta, Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Research Centres at Lethbridge and Lacombe. The research program coordinated by the Chair will involve the use of molecular techniques such as genomic analysis, linkage mapping and identifying

genes responsible for variation in traits of economic importance, and the study of factors regulating gene expression. These molecular approaches will be integrated with experimental models currently in place in Alberta to study the physiological processes underlying production. The candidate will possess a Ph.D. in a scientific discipline relevant to the study of the molecular biology of cattle, will have an established research record in molecular biology and a commitment to its application in research on bovine physiology and beef production. Demonstrated leadership ability, excellent communication skills and a strong commitment to technology transfer are essential. The University of Alberta has excellent on-campus research facilities and equipment, including a state-of-the-art Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Centre, numerous specialized analytical laboratories, a large animal metabolism unit, and a research ranch which includes a herd of 500 beef cows (for further details, see www.afns.ualberta.ca). In addition, the Chair will have access to AAFC research stations in Lacombe and Lethbridge which offer an additional range of facilities and research strengths in many complementary areas including rumen microbiology/biotechnology and meat science.

Applications, including a statement of research and teaching interests, curriculum vitae, and the name of three referees should be sent by January 31, 1999 or until a suitable candidate has been found, to:

Dr. John Kennelly, Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T6G 2P5.

For further information on this position, contact Dr. Kennelly at (403) 492-2131 / fax (403) 492-4265 / e-mail: chair@afns.ualberta.ca or visit our web site.

laurels

HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION HONORS U OF A'S DR. PAUL ARMSTRONG

Each year the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada provides the Award of Merit "in recognition of meritorious service in contribution to medical research or in the field of human endeavor." This year's recipient is Dr. Paul Armstrong, chair of the University of Alberta's Department of Internal and Clinical Medicine, who has had a long and extremely productive career in health research in Canada. A graduate of Queen's University, his fellowship training at Harvard University and St. George's Hospital in London, England led to his first academic appointment at Queen's University in 1972. In 1984 he became chief of cardiology at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and built one of the finest training grounds for young scientists and physicians in Canada. Dr. Armstrong's research activities are a shining example of a clinician-scientist—one who has successfully bridged the gap between basic science and clinical application. His research on unstable angina, acute myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure and cardiovascular health care has led to more

than 200 peer-reviewed publications since 1970. Dr. Armstrong has volunteered with the Heart and Stroke Foundation since 1979, holding a number of senior positions, most recently as a member of the Senior Advisory Council.

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH PRIZE CANADIAN FIRST

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has named Dr. Wayne Glover, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the 1999 W.R.G. Baker Award recipient. Established in 1956, the Baker Prize recognizes the most outstanding paper reporting original work in the transactions, journals, proceedings and magazines of the IEEE societies over the past year. The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society comprised of more than 320,000 members in approximately 150 countries. IEEE aims to advance the theory and practice of electrical, electronics and computer engineering and computer science. The 1999 award marks the first occasion the prize has been awarded to a Canadian as the principal researcher and for work done solely in Canada.

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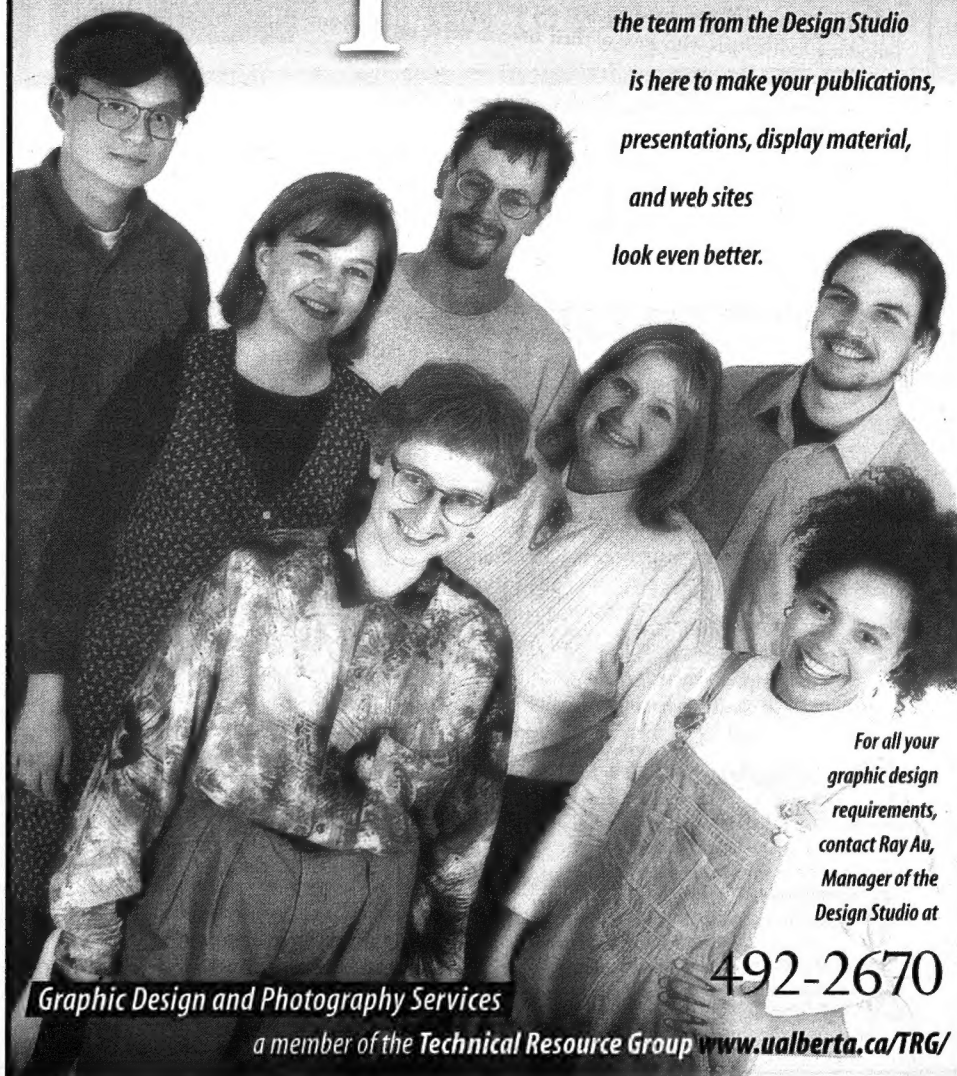
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ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

December 14, noon

Edward H Engelman, Department of Cell Biology and Neuroanatomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, "Conserved Structures in DNA Recombination and Replication." 2-27 Medical Sciences Building.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Departmental Seminar Series

December 11, 2:30 pm

Edwin Cossins, "Pursuit of Plant Folates: A 34-year Saga." 128 Physics V-Wing.

December 16, 4 pm

Stan Boutin, "The Role of Predation in the Population Dynamics of Boreal Ungulates." M-145 Biological Sciences Centre.

January 8, 2:30 pm

Jack Owens, "Conifers Reproduction: Diversity in an Ancient Group." 102 Physics V-Wing.

Ecology Seminar Series (part of the Biology 631 seminar series)

December 11, noon

Ian Jonsen, "Linking Individual Movement to Landscape-Level Patterns of Distribution: Chasing Damselflies Hither and Yon." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

December 14, 3:30 pm

Marco Festa-Bianchet, Department of Biology, University of Sherbrooke, "Female Reproductive Strategy and Population Dynamics in Bighorn Sheep." M-145 Biological Sciences Centre.

January 8, noon

Brad Stelfox, "Alberta's Boreal Forest: A Landscape in Transition. Implications for Sustainable Land Use." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

January 15, noon

Arturo Sanchez, "Countryside Biogeography: Monitoring Tropical Deforestation and Habitat Fragmentation at the National and Regional Level, A Case Study in Costa Rica." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

Environmental Biology and Ecology Research Group

January 22, 3:30 pm

Bernie Roitberg, "The Importance of Behaviour to Disease Epidemiology: An Evolutionary Approach." M-145 Biological Sciences Centre.

Molecular Biology and Genetics Research Group (part of the Genetics 605 seminar series)

January 8, 3:30 pm

Susan Andrew, "The Role of Mismatch Repair in Tumorigenesis." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

January 15, 3:30 pm

Mike Weinfield, "Radiation Induced DNA damage and the Base Excision Repair Pathway." G-116 Biological Sciences Centre.

Physiology and Cell Developmental Biology Seminar Series (part of the Biology 642 series)

December 16, noon

Doug Syme, "The Need for Speed! Consequences of Being Fast and Faster in Skeletal Muscle." B-105 Biological Sciences Centre.

January 6, noon

Christine Benishin, "Parathyroid Hypertensive Factor: A New Calcium Regulating Hormone?" B-105 Biological Sciences Centre.

January 13, noon

Nicolas Bernier, "Interactions Between Angiotensin II and Catecholamines in the Cardiovascular Control of Fish." B-105 Biological Sciences Building.

January 20, noon

Dave Gifford, "Why Would Anyone Study Conifer Seeds When You Could Work with Arabidopsis, Eh?" B-105 Biological Sciences Centre.

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

December 16, 5:30 pm

John Tyberg, Departments of Medicine and Physiology/Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, "Wave Intensity Analysis—A New Approach to Hemodynamics." 231 Civil-Electrical Engineering Building.

CENTRE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION STUDIES

January 12, noon

Carlyn Volume, "Bridging the Gap: A Process of Weight Loss with Anorexia Therapy." Classroom F, 2J4.02 Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

HUMAN ECOLOGY

January 14, noon

Anne Lambert, "I'm So Glad You Really Want to See This." Use of Video in Qualitative Research. 305 Human Ecology Building.

LAW

December 17, noon

VT Thamilaran, Senior Lecturer in Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, "Constitutionalism—A Means of Conflict Resolution? Sri Lanka's Experience." 448 Law Centre.

PERINATAL CLINICAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

January 5, noon

Jane Drummond and Nicole Letourneau, "Building Parenting Capacity: A Research Program." B762 Women's Centre, Royal Alexandra Hospital.

PHYSIOLOGY

January 8, 3:30 pm

Richard Z Lewanczuk, "HCaRG - A New Gene with Importance in Hypertension." 207 Heritage Medical Research Centre.

events

EXHIBITIONS

BRUCE PEEL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

Until December 24

"Adversaria: Sixteenth-Century Books and the Traces of their Readers" and "The Book of Nature: the Eighteenth Century & the Material World." Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Basement, Rutherford South Library.

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"Industrial Design—Works in Progress: Design in the Computer Aided Environment, Product and Prototype Development." Hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday, 2 to 5 pm, Monday, Saturday, statutory holidays, closed. 1-1 Fine Arts Building.

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"Legacy—The Work of Twelve Major Alberta Artists in the University of Alberta Hospital Permanent Collection." Hours: Monday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 4 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 5 to 8 pm (subject to availability of volunteers). Information: 492-8428 or 492-4211. Walter C Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre.

1999-2000 KILLAM ANNUAL PROFESSORSHIPS

Applications for the 1999-2000 Killam Annual Professorships are now available. All regular, continuing, full-time, academic faculty members who are not on leave during 1999-2000 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior University administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one Faculty. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$2500 prize and a commemorative scroll. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students,

and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be substantial contributions to the community beyond the University, as evidenced by community involvement directly linked to the applicant's university responsibilities and activities.

Awards are tenable for twelve months commencing 1 July 1999. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research and External Affairs), 3-7 University Hall, by **Friday 26 February 1999 at 4:30 pm**. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Dinner in the autumn of 1999.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research and External Affairs) at:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~univhall/vp/vprea/awards.html>

Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Vice-President (Research and External Affairs) at extension 8342 or email: annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

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This symposium is free of charge and provides opportunities for networking and for learning more about teaching. Some of the sessions are applicable to the University Teaching (UT) Program as part of the pedagogical requirement.

Advance registration is required. For more information, call Grace Wiebe, Coordinator. Phone/Fax: 1-403-492-2491; email: grace.wiebe@ualberta.ca

U OF A PITCHES IN FOR HURRICANE MITCH FUND

University of Alberta faculty and staff pulled in \$11,164.63 - and \$8 US - to help those in Central America affected by Hurricane Mitch. Donations were received from: Arts, Education, Science, Physical Education and Recreation, Medicine and Dentistry, Engineering, Nursing, Rehabilitation Medicine, Graduate Studies and Research, University Hall, Students' Union, Interservice Fellowship and School of Native Studies, with special credit to the Spanish and Latin American Students' Association.


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U of A Accommodation Guide

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To accommodate special guests to the University, reservations can be made using the Hotel Authorization Program (HAP) form which allows post-payment by the hosting department.

These rates are per night and are exclusive of convention conference rates which are established by conference/convention organizers. Rates valid to December 31, 1998 unless otherwise noted, taxes not included.



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CELEBRATING THE SEASON

Sunday, December 13, 2:00 p.m.
Join the Faculty of Education Youth Choirs for an afternoon of seasonal music. First Presbyterian Church, 10025-105 Street. Tickets available at the door. Admission: \$10/adults, \$8/students & seniors.

INPUT REQUEST FOR BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

A Selection Committee for the Chair of the Department of Marketing, Business Economics and Law has been established. Anyone wishing to make suggestions/comments to the Committee should do so before 31 December 1998 by writing to Michael B. Percy, Dean, Faculty of Business, 4-40 Business Building.

JANUARY 1999 ORIENTATION FOR GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS - A TEACHING SYMPOSIUM

January 4-6, 1999
For the first time, University Teaching Services (UTS) is offering a January Orientation for graduate teaching assistants (GTAs). The January 1999 GTA Orientation is scheduled for three half days in the Central Academic Building (CAB); one full day on Monday, January 4th before classes start and the next two days in the afternoon and early evening, on January 5th and 6th.

Skilled faculty and graduate students will lead workshops and seminars on effective teaching strategies. The sessions are aimed at the novice instructor who may have extensive subject matter expertise but little teaching experience. During the January 1999 GTA Orientation, sessions will be given on the

A Cappuccino Christmas

By Roger Armstrong

Not sure what to get Dad for Christmas? Another bad tie, a stupid puzzle, power tools he'll never use? What about a cappuccino machine? But not just any cappuccino machine—the Ferrari of all cappuccino machines, as designed by U of A students.

One of this term's projects for Design 470 students is to redesign the home model of the frothy beverage maker. Coming up with a new look for household products is common practice in the industrial design field, says Rob Lederer, sessional instructor in the Department of Art and Design.

"As things change culturally, sometimes products have to change," he says. While the interior technology of a product may remain the same, repackaging can make a dramatic difference in sales. The Dustbuster is one example of a product that started to sell better after it was redesigned, says Roland Kurzitza, Design 470 co-instructor. And there are many more examples out there.

With new coffee shops opening up all the time on Whyte Ave, it's obvious there has been a resurgence in the coffee culture, says Lederer. With this growing trend, Lederer and Kurzitza thought it appropriate to tackle the home cappuccino machine as a learning project for their class.

The students were given six

weeks and a price range of \$350 to \$1,000; the instructors are pleased with the results.

"We have a contact with Wega, in Italy, one of the largest coffee-machine manufacturers in the world," says Lederer, who will send photos of the creations to Wega for feedback on the viability of the U of A designs.

The students worked in groups of two. Along with research about their potential market, the students have to research and decide on materials, colors, mechanics, etc. They have to think about their potential audience and the process becomes more than simply putting a new package on an old product. "There are considerations not just for the overall form, but...how do they grab the handle? What gives them the visual clues on what they should and shouldn't touch?" says Lee-Ann Houston, a second-year art and design student.

Houston likes the practical application of this project, one you can relate to when you go to a coffee shop, she says. Houston and her project partner, Heather Eadie, also second year, targeted the "baby boomers" or "Starbucks" crowd

whom they thought would have the necessary expendable income for the machines.

Eadie and Houston tried to create something that not only makes cappuccinos but is also aesthetically pleasing and, hopefully, a conversation piece. Working from a limited number of letters that fit with the design, they named their creation 'Lota.'

Pauline Van Roessel and Orsolya Jakab (both second year) named their creation 'Aroga.' Van Roessel was leafing through The Gateway, saw the word and liked it. Van Roessel is serious about industrial design and likes it because, while it has structure, it also allows for creativity. "You have a goal,

and you want to try and get there, and you can be as creative as you want," she says. Van

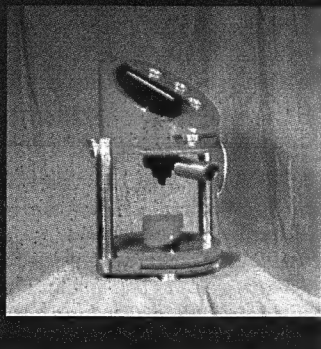
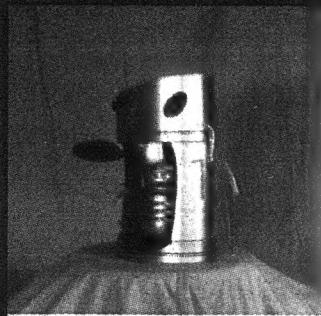
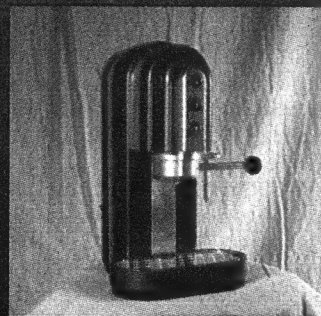
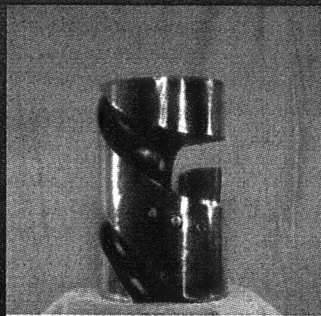
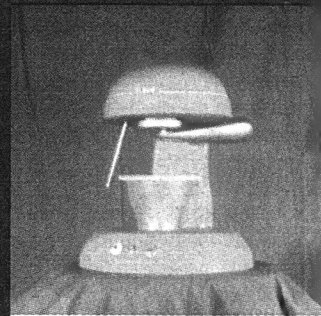
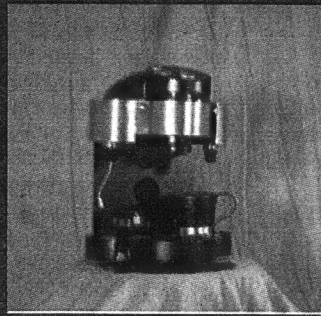
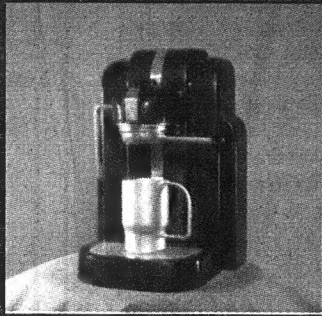
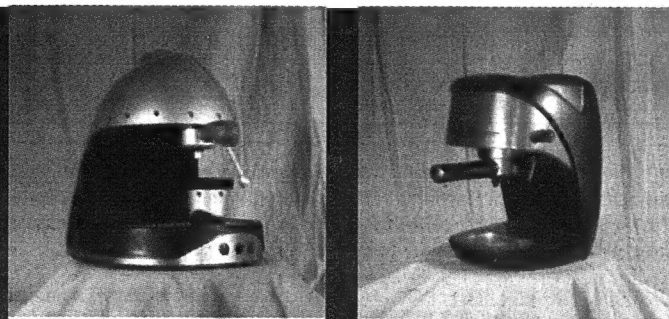
Roessel and Jakab's machine had the extra feature of a hot-water spout in addition to the steam spout.

These kinds of innovations

may seem small but they do lead to new designs for the machines. Three years ago, a class redesigned the toaster and while the designs seemed radical three years ago, you will see similar designs in the store this Christmas, says Kurzitza.

So if you are looking for that hard-to-buy-for person on your shopping list, you might want to stop by the Fine Arts Building Gallery from Dec. 8 - 20 to view these new cappuccino machine designs which are part of a larger exhibition on product design.

The designs you see here could be coming soon to a store near you. ■



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Pauline Van Roessel and Orsolya Jakab